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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: GIANPIETRO BENEDETTI

Group Art Unit: 1742

Serial No.: 09/976,209

Examiner: Sikyin IP

Filed: October 13, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN-LINE HEAT

TREATMENT OF HOT ROLLED STOCK

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 30, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2003, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows: